REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7 through 14, 29, 30, 32, and 33 are pending, with Claim 1 being independent. Claims 15 through 28 and 31 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 32 has been amended. The specification has been amended.

The August 3, 2006 Amendment was objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 132 as introducing new matter. All objections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the reversal of that amendment.

Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph, as lacking written description, and Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over US 2001/0016249 A1 (Kitamura, et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been mooted by the cancellation without prejudice of those claims.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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